Aspect: English Grammar
Topic: Adjective

Introduction

An adjective is a word that describes or gives more information about a noun or pronoun. It tells us what kind, which one, how many, or how much.

Simple definition for young learners:

An adjective is a describing word.
Example: The tall boy is smiling. (tall describes the boy.)

Expanded definition for higher levels:

In grammar, an adjective is a word that modifies a noun or pronoun by providing additional details about its qualities, quantity, identity, or state. Adjectives can appear before the noun they modify (attributive position) or after a linking verb (predicative position).

Types of Adjectives

A. Basic Types (For Primary & Junior Levels)

1. Descriptive Adjectives – Describe qualities of a noun.
   - *beautiful, tall, red, strong*
   Example: She wore a *beautiful* dress.
2. Quantitative Adjectives – Tell how much or how many.
   - some, many, few, several, two
   Example: We have *three* apples.
3. Demonstrative Adjectives – Point out specific things.
   - this, that, these, those Example: I like *that* book.
4. Possessive Adjectives – Show ownership.
   - my, your, his, her, its, our, their Example: This is *my* car.

Interrogative Adjectives – Ask questions about nouns.

- which, what, whose
  Example: *Which* pen is yours?

B. Advanced Classifications (For Senior Levels)

1. Proper Adjectives – Formed from proper nouns, often capitalised.
   - Nigerian music, Shakespearean drama
2. Compound Adjectives – Made of two or more words acting as one adjective.
   - part-time job, well-known author
3. Distributive Adjectives – Refer to each member of a group separately.
   - each, every, either, neither
4. Comparative & Superlative Adjectives – Show degrees of comparison.
   - Positive: *tall* → Comparative: *taller* → Superlative: *tallest*
5. Predicate Adjectives – Come after linking verbs and describe the subject.
   - Example: The sky is blue. (blue describes sky)

How to Identify an Adjective

Teachers can help students ask:

- Does the word describe a noun or pronoun?
- Can you ask what kind?, which one?, how many?, or how much? and get the answer from that word?
- Is it placed before a noun or after a linking verb?

Example:

The ***angry*** cat hissed loudly. (angry describes cat)

The cat is ***angry***. (angry still describes cat, but comes after a verb)

Usage of Adjectives in Sentences

A. Before the Noun (Attributive Position)

The ***delicious*** cake is on the table.

B. After the Verb (Predicative Position)

The cake is ***delicious***.

C. In Comparison

My car is ***faster*** than yours.

D. With Intensifiers

The movie was ***extremely*** interesting.

Engaging Classroom Activities

For Primary Level

- **Adjective Hunt:** Students find adjectives in a short story.
- **Describe & Draw:** One student describes an object, and others draw it.
- **Adjective Match:** Match nouns with suitable adjectives on flashcards.

For Junior Level

- **Adjective Bank:** Give a picture; students list as many adjectives as possible to describe it.
- **Comparison Game:** Students compare items in class (e.g., taller, brighter).
- **Sentence Challenge:** Add adjectives to plain sentences to make them interesting.

For Senior Level

- **Creative Writing Prompt:** Students write a descriptive paragraph using at least 10 adjectives.
- **Adjective Transformation:** Change adjectives into comparative and superlative forms.
- **Error Correction:** Identify and correct misplaced or redundant adjectives in a passage.

Exercises

A. Identify the adjectives in the following sentences:

1. The blue sky looks beautiful.
2. We saw three birds in the tree.
3. This cake is sweeter than the last one.
4. She wore a Nigerian dress.
5. His room is very tidy.

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable adjectives:

1. The _____ road was difficult to drive on.
2. I have _____ friends in my neighbourhood.
3. That was the _____ movie I have ever watched.

C. Rewrite the sentences, adding at least two adjectives:

1. The boy ran.
2. We visited a house.

Teacher Tips for Engagement

- **Use real objects:** Bring items to class and have students describe them.
- **Incorporate senses:** Encourage adjectives describing sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound.
- **Comparisons:** Use competitions (e.g. tallest pencil, softest fabric) for fun learning.
- **Peer feedback:** Let students evaluate each other's descriptive sentences.

Suggested Subtopics for Further Reading

- Order of adjectives in English
- Adjectives vs. adverbs
- Adjective clauses
- Nominal adjectives (adjectives used as nouns)
- Common errors in adjective use

Sample Lesson Flow (All Levels)

- Warm-up – Quick "describe your desk" activity.
- Presentation – Definition, types, and examples (simple → advanced).
- Practice – Adjective-based games or pair work.
- Production – Students write a paragraph using a variety of adjectives.
- Review & Feedback – Recap usage and identify common mistakes.